California GARDEN

FORTY-SIXTH YEAR | AUTUMN, 1955 | VOLUME 46, NO. 3

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San Diego 1, California

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Mae Lou Town

Calendar of Events

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August 9
Flower Arrangement Class, Floral Building (See page 7).
September 11, 2 p.m.
Floral Association Tea in honor of new officers and directors. Home of Mrs. John G. Clark, 3243 Harbor View Dr.
September 20, 6 p.m.
Annual picnic supper, Rosecroft Begonia Gardens, 7:30 p.m. Talk by Jerry Hunter.
September 29, 8 a.m.
Chartered bus tour to Pomona Fair.
October 8-9
Flower Arrangement Show, Floral Building, Saturday, 1-6 p.m.; Sunday, 10-6 p.m.
October 18, 8 p.m.
Regular meeting, Floral Association Building.
October 15-16
Driftwood Arrangement Show, California Western University, Pt. Loma.
October 25-26-27
Class in Flower Show Judging under State Federated Garden Clubs, Inc.

NEW EDITOR

Mabel Hazard, editor of California Garden for the past four years, resigned in June because of many other projects that demanded her time. The Board of Directors accepted her resignation with regret and sent a letter of appreciation for the high standard she maintained during her regime.

President Baldwin appointed Alice M. Clark, who served as editor in 1949 and 1950, as her successor.

Alice E. Inch is a new addition to the associate editors.

Garden Clubs — Notice

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Affiliate membership in the San Diego Floral Association is available to all garden clubs within the city limits of San Diego. Annual dues of $10.00 entitles an affiliate to representation on the executive board of the Floral Association, two subscriptions to California Garden, and week-end flower shows in the Floral Building. An additional fee of $15.00, for the building maintenance fund, entitles an organization to the use of the building for meetings and to the use of another building in the park for a flower show. Garden clubs interested are asked to write a letter petitioning affiliate membership.

Subscriptions to California Garden, $2.00 per year; foreign countries and Canada $2.25. California Garden is on the list of publications authorized by the San Diego Retail Merchants Association. Manuscripts submitted for publication will receive prompt attention. Advertising rates on request.

Wanted: Back issues of California Garden from 1909 to 1916 and Spring, 1952. Please send to Miss Alice M. Greer for files.

Entered as second-class matter December 8, 1910, at the Post Office at San Diego, California, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Membership in the San Diego Floral Association includes a subscription to California Garden. Classification of memberships: Annual, $3.00; Family, $5.00; Sustaining, $5.00; and Contributing, $25.00. Memberships and gifts are deductible from income tax.

California Garden

FORTY-SIXTH YEAR AUTUMN, 1955 VOL. 46, NO. 3

CONSERVATION ~ PROGRESS ACCORDANCE

ROLAND S. HOYT

Words at times have an unhappy faculty of getting out of hand and into the hair, confusing issues and warping the thinking of individuals and groups. So it is that the term PROGRESS may receive a spurious interpretation or be treated honestly. It means literally advancement, either physically, or subjectively in the realm of ideas and may suggest going ahead along lines we like, or the reverse. It may lead to a meretricious end, artificial, deceitful, tawdry, or it stands for something we consider good in the social order, the well being of man, his growth toward a better state, his happiness.

Then there is the word CONSERVATION which means preservation. This is a good word, but maltreated at times. It has been of reasonable repute and well publicized since the time of the first Roosevelt. It stands for so much that is good and hopeful in our time that I hesitate to suggest a connotation that, in itself, is not so good . . . it stands still; it waits. But possibly even that may be understood, because soon or late progress catches up and that which has been preserved is hopefully put to work by . . . ACCORDANCE. Here is another word with many good meanings that might well be enumerated. First there is agreement which is harmony. Then there is concord and assent and consent, all leading up to the best of all which is compromise. This word should serve to reconcile any differences or oppositions that may arise between the "twain" above . . . and they "shall meet."

Torrey Pines is a hill . . . not an ordinary hill, for it locates and hosts one of the famed trees of California. With the years since people came it has taken on very special meaning. It gave sanctuary to the species over time and along came certain individuals of vision at the last who took hold and conserved. Now comes population, not of vision, new and narrowly demanding. The Goths come down out of the hinterlands and had better be propitiated . . . we must come to terms; they won't know that these trees have been set aside, inviolable. If anyone, even those who respect, love and venerate these trees the most, thinks an eight hundred acre museum can be held, with mesa land adapted to other uses, they are mistaken . . . it will be appropriated.

In order that there may be harmony and a good job done from here on, a new, overall look at the problem is suggested. The primary question is that of use determinaation and is unusual only in the light of the unique character of the ground. Time passes and attitudes change. We may ask now . . . what are we conserving . . . figurative sticks and stones and spent snake-skins, or are we interested in the mind and soul of people and their bodies and the mark they are going to make as they walk farther across the earth? As for the trees, year after year erosion continues. Wind and water and scuffing shoes take of the soil that covers the roots, and there is surely a point beyond which it will be difficult to return. There is a job to do in capitalizing for the exhibit this new interest in the area. Where people go there is interest. Where there is interest and enlightenment, work can be done. Park boards in the past have sought for funds to sustain and support these priceless trees, but it was not to be had.

It is time now to consider this aspect and organize our thinking constructively, so I bring up another element of this use angle that is being overlooked . . . something that is of equal importance with the others and possibly something that may serve to lift us above boundary lines. We have been hearing much of golfers and scientists and their particular areas of interest. May I ask . . . what about the public . . . the little people who are always picking up the check . . . who pay the bills. They don't play golf and they don't botanize . . . and they won't be damned if they get any idea of what's over that crest. Are they to be excluded from the rare inspirational experience this outlook affords?

Now, that which I am about to say is not irrelevent because it points up each other case under consideration. I have had a close and continuing interest in this terrain for a good many years and from a total point of view, not just one. Some ten years ago when the city started to demolish Camp Callan, we of the then Park Commission became concerned as to what would happen to the land overlooking the ocean. In order that its ultimate use might not be unrelated to park development, we asked the city council to set it aside for that purpose. It was done.

There is room here for the primitive, for golf and in logical sequence, a scenic drive serving the public and affording access to the heights south with their remarkable wide-angled and changing views to sea, up and down the coastline. Here is the possibility of a drive rivaling, and surpassing, in a San Simeon way the seventeen mile drive of Monterey and Pebble Beach. It could originate from a ring road around Mission Bay Park, pass over and around Soledad with alternating mountain and marine outlooks, and relate, in a fashion, these two totally diverse, but equally distinctive areas. Study would show whether two existing undeveloped park parcels might be attached.

It is a strange coincidence that at Monterey, California, there will be found another botanical island in the endemic, so-called Monterey Cypress, native there and nowhere else. We have a pine. They have a cypress. This tree is even more restricted in locale than the pine. It has an equally picturesque habit of growth and is as widely known. Along with these unique trees

there has been built a golf course, not near enough to cause any harm, fitting nicely into the picture of land, sea and tree . . . another human use for an interesting region. This course, too, has become world-famed and certain holes there will come up for discussion whenever golfers get together for things beside golf. And there is a road . . . this famous drive . . . bringing all together in an equal availability to golfer, naturalist and the public.

It may be suggested very seriously to those who have been in opposition, a critical study of this other development, to observe, to look full in the face what might be done here. The parallel is significant . . . it is very plain . . . it is my belief . . . if we fail to provide the means here and now for a like concept, another generation will do it the hard way and tear harshly into some of the installations we are so concerned about now.

It has been suggested that golf be moved farther south in order to hold this mesa to go with the trees. Golf is a peculiar combination of passive and active recreation, depending for its highest effectiveness on topography and on scenic and natural surroundings for the release of tensions that build up so fiercely today. This is the ground William P. Bell, golf architect, chose and presumably is the best from the standpoint of golf, and not only this . . . what satisfaction the City of San Diego would take in one of the outstanding and picturesque trials of golf in the nation. The raw material for such lies here, in this ground. Moreover, there is the matter of access and a design relation that works against this change. The highway underpass dictates the location of the clubhouse which in turn must bisect the course, while a proposed shopping center, some distance beyond the other side, closes the cross-axis that develops.

It has already been intimated that the broad green of golf makes a good neighbor for the primitive and this would seem self-evident. I can go further and bring up again this picture of pressing population, at some future date and in the absence of prior use, surging in on this mesa with some absolutely unrelated and injurious development . . . hospital, school or maybe a dog-racing track . . . who knows what fifty years will do to the thinking of a harried city. A fence is an unstable boundary. Hold the line at the broad canyon, a natural division, and there is plenty of primal ground left to science and students while a much wider recreational value results.

Much has been said about fauna and flora on both sides of this controversy. It is my opinion that an ecological study of this ground would show species of plants, relic and following, closely associated. This suggests that species existing on the mesa would be found, along with their allies, at other spots within the preserve and still available to those who study these things and still held historically. With this in mind I have gone over the mesa and noted some twenty-five species, identifiable at this time of year or with which I am familiar. A further examination of the ground toward the lodge found all these species represented. They follow: Greasewood, Quercus, Scrub Oak, *Rhus integrifolia, Cneoridium dumosum, Eriodictyon crassifolium,* Toyon, Mountain Mahogany, *Rhamnus crocea var., Chorizanthe, Styllophyllum (Echeveria),* the native Mesembryanthemum *(Carpobrotus chilensis), Encelia californica, Mirabilis californica, Rhus laurina,* Blue-eyed-grass, Manzanita, Black and White Sage, Coast Lilac, Bush-poppy, Monkey Flower, *Echinocystus,* Wild Buckwheat and *Lotus (Hosackia).* Black Sage abounds and the rare Cleveland Sage will be found off and on the course of golf. Every effort should be made to save as much of it as possible. In passing it may be said that this is not the last stand of *Salvia clevelandi.* The type stand still exists and has been spread. It will be found from time to time in the nursery trade.

The loss of bush-poppy has been lamented as depredation. There is a stand of this alongside the entrance road to the park where it could and must be held. Another group of these shrubs towards the center of the mesa may or may not come within play. However, this species is found generally in the Torrey Pines-Rancho Santa Fe Area and in regions further removed and has no vital significance to the ground under consideration for golf. There are four Torrey Pines involved, that is, of a size to be seen above the chaparral. Three of these are definitely out of play, either contiguous to, or over slopes into barrancas. The fourth pine is expected to fall into the rough between fairways or near number 10 tee as shown on the plan. Doubtless many more of these trees will be planted and established in connection with the course, which would serve to extend and further conserve the species. This has been discussed in both the park and planning commissions and doubtless will come about when the time is right.

Now that the decision has been made, may we again ask for unity in thinking and this balanced conception of the area. It is true and should be pointed out here, seemingly how necessary in the past it has been for San Diego to constantly call attention to itself and its unequalled facilities for living, this off-the-highway community in the extreme low corner of the nation. Witness two world expositions: Balboa Park, always heavy in cost against population, but paying in the end: Mission Bay Park, a Marine playground of the highest order to draw and provide for a different kind of play for still more people. This development . . . these golf courses . . . this drive . . . a vitalized museum of nature, will fall into the same pattern of progress and desirable growth for the city and will not be denied in the end.

☆

Roland Hoyt, A.S.L.A., author of a "Check List for Sub-tropical Regions," has practiced in the San Diego area for thirty years. He is a member of the San Diego Floral Association and a former editor of California Garden. *A part-time consulting landscape architect for the City Planning Commission in connection with the Mission Bay Park and Recreation Area, the author presents this brief for the proposed plan to use the city-owned land at Camp Callan and a part of the southern portion of the Torrey Pines Preserve for a municipal golf course.*

In the Summer, 1955, issue of California Garden, *Guy L. Fleming, also a longtime member of our Association, and President of the Torrey Pines Association, made an appeal to transfer the whole of the Torrey Pines Park to the State Division of Beaches and Parks.*

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Each in It's Season

Alice E. Inch

While this article will necessarily recount some facts and procedures familiar to every good gardener, its purpose is to emphasize the historical and geographical bases of plant life and to bear witness to the satisfactions to be derived from the study and application of plant history to our everyday garden problems and pleasures.

In the mild semi-arid climate of San Diego gardening is continuous, but still our plants have their times and seasons, maintain habits and periodicities, and require growing conditions, which relate to their early histories and their ancestral habitats.

Here there is never a month—or a day—when the gardener can really relax and just study the catalogs and make blue prints for his garden, as can be done in the colder regions where snow and ice take over for three to six months of the year. However, we have the great compensation that here, we can grow plants from the four corners of the world if we will take the time and make the effort to acquaint ourselves with their origin and their general habits of growth.

Before discussing our garden plants and their native habitats, it may be interesting to think of the native vegetation in this region of Southern California, for here we can study at first hand the effect of habitat on plant growth. Probably we have the most extensive area of dwarf woodland or "chaparral," as it is locally known, in the world.

This low woodland is composed of low scrubby shrubs and stunted trees with some vines and herbaceous plants scattered between. The growth is dense, tough, often spiny and, in the main, evergreen. Reversing the general procedure, the growing season of the chaparral begins immediately after the first rainfall which usually ushers in the cool short days of the winter months and stops soon after the effects of the last rains have evaporated. This makes the growing season quite short, hence the plants do not have the opportunity to grow very big. Just before growth stops, at the beginning of the dry season, flowers are produced and then the chaparral is truly beautiful. The foothills that for so many months of the year are covered with a dull brownish-green vegetation are suddenly gay with the blue and white blossoms of the wild lilac *(Ceanothus palmeri),* white manzanita *(Arctostaphylus glauca),* the yellowish flowers of Cascara-Sagrada *(Rhamnus californica),* white plumes of the greasewood *(Adenostoma sparsifolium)* and the reddish catkins of the scrub-oak *(Quercus dumosa)* to mention only a few.

Plant physiologists tell us that the limiting factors for plant growth are (1) Temperature, (2) Light, (3) Water and (4) Soil. We must know a good deal about these factors and how our plants react to them.

(1) *Temperature* in San Diego is ideal for a great variety of plants. Most flowering plants seem to develop best in temperatures between 70° F. and 90° F. and growth is retarded, if not stopped, when air and soil temperatures either go down to freezing or go up to about 100° F. Some plants require cold winters to enforce a resting period before blooming. The eastern lilac and the tulips need this cold period, which, in the case of the tulip, can be artificially provided by the household refrigerator. On the other hand, our gardens are full of thriving plants which come from climates of higher temperatures than ours. Near the coast our frosts are usually too mild and of too short duration to harm these plants, but in the back country, away from the fog belt, tropical and subtropical plants are often damaged by frost unless protected. A certain amount of temperature variability, however, is extremely important in inducing optimum plant growth. Experiments have shown that many plant stems elongate more in the cool of the night than in the warm daytime temperatures. Plants seem to need daily temperature variation as well as seasonal variation to promote the periods of greatest activity, namely vegetative growth, blossoming and seed formation, followed by a rest period. Daily temperature variation is one of San Diego's attractive features, helpful alike to gardeners and their gardens.

(2) *Light* is a vital factor in that it is the fount of all energy. It's source is the sun and in the presence of sunlight our green plants produce the foods without which neither plants nor animals, including man, could survive. Photosynthesis, a chemical reaction performed by green plants, is still a mystery to man, but by it, plants manufacture carbohydrates (sugars and starches) and keep us all alive.

The daily duration of sunlight is important. It influences the reproductive or flowering period of plants to such an extent that we divide plants into three classes (a) Plants requiring more than twelve hours of sunlight per day in order to produce flowers, (b) Plants requiring less than twelve hours of sunlight per day and (c) Plants that bloom at any time, sunlight not being a limiting factor. The different regions of the world develop a native vegetation which responds to the local day length.

The intensity of light also affects the general wellbeing of our plants. Many plants such as ferns, azaleas, rhododendrons and most fuchsias do better in shade or filtered sunshine as furnished by a lath house or a wide-spreading tree. This is also true of our early spring bulbs, which last longer in bloom, if given a shady situation in the garden. At the other extreme are zinnias and marigolds, which love the sun and lots of it.

(3) *Water* as a limiting factor in plant growth is vitally important. Rainfall, humidity and the available surface water supply are the factors determining the type of vegetation an otherwise favorable region can support. A rainfall which occurs largely during a restricted part of the year, as here, supports only plants which are able to survive long periods of drought. Humidity represents the amount of water vapor in the air. In San Diego there is generally a daily rhythm, water vapor being high at night, due to fogs and heavy dews, and low in the daytime. Our humidity, as represented by our

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fogs and dews, is of the greatest importance to the San Diego gardener. It not only provides moisture for direct plant assimilation, but retards water evaporation from the plant leaves.

While the Colorado River water has saved our gardens by permitting irrigation whenever needed, it has created havoc with many of our choicest plants, for the water is very alkaline. Some plants are able to tolerate the increased alkalinity but many are not, without the use of acid-forming fertilizers. Such plants as camellias, citrus trees, hydrangeas, fuchsias, rhododendrons and azaleas, as well as many of the herbaceous plants, need this protection which can be had by the use of cottonseed meal, iron sulphate or ammonium sulphate.

(4) *Soil,* so the scientists tell us, provides plants with only 10% of their nutrition. The other 90% comes from the air. Fortunately we San Diegans, at least for the present, have no local smog problem and our air supply is good, both in quantity and quality. The 10% provided by the soil, however, is also most important as it is the source of the essential mineral elements which dissolve out in the soil water and hence are used as plant food. Types of soil may be classified for our use as sandy soils, silt soils, loam and clay. Sandy soils drain rapidly and allow plant nutrition to leach out, necessitating more frequent applications of fertilizers than do other types of soil, while clay holds the fertilizers longest of all. Other soil factors must also be considered, particularly the amount of organic matter it contains. Increased organic matter content improves the moisture-holding qualities of the soil and also aids in its aeration.

Plants that are subtropical in origin, need a moist soil with plenty of humus and loam and with slow drainage to give time to absorb the needed moisture. Plants of desert origin, on the other hand, require light sandy soil with quick drainage. Hillside plantings are especially appropriate for these plants.

In the Spring, Summer and Autumn issues of "California Garden" for 1954, Frank Quintana has given us excellent discussions of our soil and fertilizer problems. These articles answer, in a most interesting and effective manner, many of the soil questions which seem particularly important here, where we must try to provide the different soil requirements for so many plants of different origin and habitat.

We must remember that plants in a garden are removed from their natural environment and crowded into an artificial one. The successful gardener, knowing something of the geographic origin of his plants, sets them as nearly as possible, in places where some approximation to the natural habitat can be secured.

Perhaps some notes on the historical background of a few of my own patio plantings may be of interest in this connection. In my patio, for instance, is a Washington navel orange tree. The ancestor of this seedless orange was a bud sport or mutation, discovered in a monastery garden in Bahia, Brazil, and brought to this country about 1870. Its native climate is moist tropical, where about one hundred inches of rain falls annually. It is evergreen with the individual branches responding separately to seasonal periodicity. The leaves are shed but not all at once, and some branches blossom while others are laden with fruit of varying degrees of ripeness. Hence the so-called rest period is spasmodic, a few branches at a time being quiescent. My tree is well protected from winds and frost and is always well watered, which is as close as we can come to duplicating its natural environment. The Jacaranda tree, which stands just outside the patio wall has a similar tropical habitat with the same amount of rainfall. It, however, has a very definite rest period, and is without leaves for six weeks or so, at the end of winter. It blooms in early May when the new leaves are being formed. For the rest of the year it is covered with lovely fern-like foliage. Also in my patio is a Dracaena *(Cordyline australis)* said to be native to both Australia and New Zealand and hence of subtropical origin. It is evergreen but sheds its older leaves through the summer months and blooms in April. It seems not to grow during the winter months and so has a partial rest period.

The same may be said of its South African neighbor, my Bird of Paradise *(Strelitzia reginae)*. Its botanical name was chosen about 1770 in honor of Charlotte Sophia of the house of Mecklenburk-Strelitz, wife of George III of England and unhappy memory! It is evergreen and has a long period of bloom from February to May followed by a short rest period. For several weeks there is no sign of growth, then new leaves are formed and the old leaves turn yellow and are removed to keep the plant looking well. In another cor-

(Continued on Page 11)

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Much About Mulches

Frank C. Quintana

If you are the type who enjoys a bargain, the best trick for you in the garden is to look into the matter of mulching. This simple procedure of laying some sort of litter over your beds and borders will not only conserve moisture and cut back on your water bills, but will in addition, insure thriftier plant growth, build up the humus content of your soil, and assist in developing a better soil structure. A continuing program of mulching will probably accumulate more dividends for your garden than any other single horticultural technique.

The problem is to create an insulating layer over the garden soil so that the evaporation of water from the topmost zones is restricted. Since the greater portion of the feeding roots of most plants lies close to the surface of the soil, there is every good reason to want to minimize moisture losses from this soil level. The list of suitable materials for this sort of program is likely limited only by your imagination. The major drawback to mulching is the necessity of having to handle comparatively large volumes of material. Whatever the cost entailed might be, it eventually will be repaid in terms of saving on the reduced watering requirements of the mulched areas. Many materials suitable for mulching are available for the trouble of hauling, but where this is inconvenient, they may be purchased for prices ranging from $2.00 to $10.00 per cubic yard. A cubic yard of material contains 27 cubic feet, or one yard will cover a hundred square feet of beds to a depth of three inches.

Generally speaking, most substances used for mulching are in a state of relative freshness: that is, they are not usually thoroughly composted or rotted. Aged material has a tendency to pack more tightly than fresh stuff, and as a result would be less likely to produce the *pelage* that is the most satisfactory insulating arrangement. The use of this fresh stuff has one apparent disadvantage, which while it is not insurmountable, should be discussed. Uncomposted or un-rotted materials, particularly those containing a goodly portion of stems, twigs, stalks, woodshavings, and such like items, display what is called a high carbon to nitrogen ratio. This means that there is a large percentage of carbohydrate components (cellulose, sugars, starches) in this sort of matter as compared to the nitrogenous components (proteins, amino acids, chlorophyll residues). For convenience, this is called the carbon - nitrogen (C-N) ratio. Like most things in this world, there is an optimum C-N ratio, at which plants and soil microbes exist together in happy economy. When the ratio is upset, something has got to be done about it, and order restored. Thus, in a manure pile, the bacteria find too high a ratio of nitrogen, and therefore ammonia is produced, allowed to escape, and the ratio is thereby adjusted. In a pile of straw, or a straw mulch, the carbon is too high, and the bacteria stop manufacturing ammonia and nitrates, and instead go to building their population. During the process, carbon dioxide is produced, which, escaping as a gas, reduces the carbon-nitrogen ratio.

Under normal circumstances, the microfauna of the soil are busy supplying nitrates to the plants. Then a mulch is dumped on the area. The microbes are delighted with this arrangement, and locking up the nitrate works, they start off on a carbohydrate binge. This really isn't as bad as it sounds. In the process of the grand carbon feast, the bacterial reduce the C-N ratio towards its optimum level, increase in number, produce the remarkable cementing substances which are of such great significance in the improvement of soil structure, and eventually return *all* of the nutrient supply to the plant, plus the plant foods previously locked up in the mulch. In the long run, the holiday does the plant and the soil microfauna a great deal of good.

Leaf mold is probably the most logical material to use as mulch, since its use would be most closely in keeping with the natural leaf and litter accumulation. "Good" gardening practice usually prohibits or interrupts the natural economy whereby plants return absorbed nutrients to the soil thru the combined agencies of leaf fall and the demise of stems and stalks. Most of this material, which under normal circumstances would provide sustenance for following generations of plants, goes instead to enrich the City Dump. Leaf mold is fairly expensive, being sold usually in the neighborhood of $7.00 per yard. Its expensiveness does not stem from its price alone, but because it is lightweight, and difficult to wet, and is therefore subject to blowing away. When used generously as a mulch in protected areas it has a good look about it. Peatmoss is also used as a mulching material, although it has the same inherent disadvantages of leafmold. Because of its uniform size and good dark color, it makes a neat looking mulch, and one that is certainly pleasing to the eye.

The Bandini Fertilizer people are now marketing a prepared mulch which is sold by the sack (2 cu. ft, sack about $1.75) and which appears to be a mixture of peat and leaf mold. For small areas, and for those folks who enjoy the "pre-mixed-easy-do-it" sort of thing, this product should be entirely satisfactory. The material can also be used as it comes as a potting mix for acid loving plants. Bandini Mulch has a good dark color, and since it seems to be packed at a more or less uniform moisture level, it should wet fairly easily if watered shortly after application.

Wood shavings are a good mulching material, and are inexpensive. They can

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be obtained from lumber mills (not saw mills) often just for the hauling, or at most for a nominal charge.

Stable litter is a somewhat better material for mulching for the reason that the wood shavings are mixed with manure. This mixture has a better C-N ratio, and therefore will not so drastically affect the action of nitrifying bacteria. Stable litter may also be had for the hauling, altho it is often available delivered for about $2.00 per yard. The manure component of the stable litter is pretty fresh, as a rule, and while this has some odor nuisance, it doesn't persist, and is more than compensated for by far than old aged material for the purpose of improving soil structure. During the course of the bacterial decomposition of fresh manure the cementing substances (mentioned before), so important in the development of good soil structure, are produced. These cements bind tiny soil particles together into larger crumbs, and produce, thereby, the most valued sort of soil architecture.

My personal favorite, if I may be permitted a flight of enthusiasm, is steamed oak bark (spent tanbark). This is a by-product waste material from leather tanning operations, and is of real value in the garden. Generally it is variously sized, from crumbs up to the size of large peagravel, and it has a good dark color. Coming from vats where it is heated directly by live steam, it is sterile and usually pretty clean when it reaches your garden. You can feel certain that you aren't *importing* any new pests or diseases. Beds mulched with this material look for long periods as if they have only recently been cultivated (until you look closely) and nearly any foliage looks more handsome against the dark background of this mulch. The tannic acid remaining in the material gives it a acid value ranging from pH 5.0-pH 6.0, slightly more acid than peat moss. The material is heavy, and not likely to blow away, and best of all, it not only wets easily, but will hold up to 110% of its own weight in water. Incidentally, the mulch can be used straight as a potting medium for a large number of orchid species. Other experiments, TO DATE, show that anthuriums, azaleas, camellias, ferns, bromeliads and other acid loving plants enjoy potting mixes wherein this tanbark is incorporated. The material when used as a mulch will do a thing that is somewhat disconcerting: the uniform moisture level tends to promote the development of fungi. To the extent of my own experience (two years) no harmful fungi have developed and apparently it is merely a visual evidence of fungal (as opposed to bacterial) decomposition. The same fungi and threadlike hyphae develop in any acidic accumulation, for the reason that bacteria are not very tolerant of acid. The preliminary decomposition is therefore left to the myriad of fungi, the far greater part of whose number are *not* malefactors. A post card addressed to me will get you the name of the supplier of this material, steamed oak bark.

If there is any of the experimentalist in you, you might want to try stone mulching. This practice has been advocated by the Organic Gardeners in recent years, and the procedure is simple enough, if laborious. A dressing of manure or compost is laid out under a shrub or tree, extending in a circle to a little beyond the drip line. On top of this, after first protecting the trunk of the plant, place rocks, the size of a grapefruit more or less, so that they pave the entire area under the shrub and extend out beyond the drip line. This may seem like a strange piece of business, but it has its points. You will probably recollect that the last time you moved any fairly large rock, or tubbed or potted plant that you had sitting on the soil somewhere in your garden, that the soil thus exposed was neither compacted, lifeless nor totally dry. Usually you will find that the patch so exposed has a moist appearance, a crumbly texture, and that it contains a number of citizens who are agitated at your intrusion, and actively scurrying for cover. Aside from this sort of activity, rock mulching tends to keep the upper soil level at a more uniform temperature for longer periods of time. The rocks, cool from the night, warm up slowly during the day, and, as the sun goes down they slowly radiate heat that they have picked up. Moreover, as you water the plants under the rock mulch, minute amounts of mineral substance dissolve and serve as plant nutrient. Finally, the rocks, like any other mulch, assist in maintaining a constant moisture level in the upper root zone.

Other mulching materials include straw, hay, excelsior, bean straw, buckwheat hulls, cacao bean hulls, lawn clippings, prunings, and what have you. Dried seaweed, kelp or eel grass are

(Continued on Page 10)

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Leaves from The Observer's Notebook

Marion Almy Lippitt

Fumbling for the living room switch, Henry turned on the lights which revealed me sitting by the garden window. It faced west. Looking through it at an angle I could see the setting sun. The sycamores across the arroyo on the far side of the garden reflected its light. The trees dripped autumn gold.

"Heaven's to Betsy," exclaimed Henry, "I left you there over an hour ago. How come?"

"I come very how," I replied continuing to sit by the window. "Put off the lights and walk yourself over here."

Henry snapped off the lights. He came and stood beside my wing chair. The sun was fast disappearing. Down the road we could see the houses light up one by one like candles on a birthday cake. I quoted:

"The lights from the parlor and kitchen shone out
Through the blinds and the windows and bars;
And high overhead and all moving about,
There were thousands of millions of stars."

"Author?" demanded Henry, who as usual wanted his "i's" dotted and his "t's" crossed.

"Robert Louis Stevenson."

"You're in good company."

"Remember when we read his 'TRAVELS WITH A DONKEY?' And I was so intrigued with his description of life in the out-of-doors, and his statement that: 'No one knows the stars who has not slept, as the French happily put it, 'á la belle étoile,' that I promptly took my sleeping bag and mattress into the garden. In the morning I awoke to discover that I was a playground for snails!"

Henry's laugh rivals his smile. Then he became more serious. "Wasn't it R.L.S. who said, 'If we find but one to whom we can speak out of our hearts freely, with whom we can walk in love and simplicity without dissimulation, we have no ground of quarrel with the world or God?'"

I nodded. "I love to think of Stevenson buried high on his hilltop in Samoa where the natives out of their love for him have decreed that no firearms should ever be used on that hill because they want him to sleep in peace."

As if to prevent us from becoming too sentimental, loud voices from the playroom shattered the quiet of the autumn twilight. The strains of "Davy Crockett, King of the Wild Frontier" rolled from the record player.

"The melancholy days are come, the saddest of the year,
Of wailing winds and naked woods and meadows brown and sere."

"Certainly that poet's house was not full of young life! I am convinced that the people who speak of autumn in such dreary tones as 'falling leaves and fading trees, lines of white on a sullen sea,' have a backward instead of a forward look."

I relit the lights, and we sat down to snatch a few more moments of tranquility before the young fry descended on us.

"Think of all the preparations that go on in the autumn," I continued. "Little children are preparing for school, big ones for college or work, and adults for goodness-knows-what."

"In the garden," said Henry, "we prepare for the peace of winter and the riot of spring. The key word to the autumn garden is 'mulch,' which means generous application of peat moss and leaf mold. Camellias particularly cry for it."

"'Bulb' is my key word to autumn gardening," I announced.

"Wait," admonished Henry reaching out his hand as if to halt me. "I see them coming."

"See who coming?" I questioned.

"'A host, of golden daffodils.'"

"And tulips—" "And freesias—"

"And hyacinths—"

"Let's say '—spring flowers' and be done with it," finished Henry.

But I wasn't so ready to lump spring beauty into one indescribable mass, so I ignored Henry's conclusiveness and put out bait for more conversation.

"Have you planted your sweet peas for Christmas blooming?"

"August is the month for that," said Henry looking annoyingly superior. "October will have them blooming in early spring.

"Isn't it amazing how, from year to year, one learns certain new tricks or facts about gardening?"

"What now?" asked Henry.

"Oh, just how to water sweet peas."

Evidently I must have looked as if I wanted someone to ask me how to water sweet peas.

Henry obliged. "Don't get hot and bothered, I'll ask it. 'How do you water sweet peas?'"

"You make a trench in front of the planted sweet pea seeds and let the water run along it."

"And why do you make a trench, Mr. Bones?"

"Because cold water should never touch the tender stems of sweet peas."

"Amen," said Henry folding his hands.

"Folded hands remind me that in the autumn we Southern Californians begin to pray for rain. Shall we use the old New England prayer," I said, bowing my head.

"O Lord, thou knowest we do not want thee to send us a rain which shall pour down in fury and swell our streams and carry away our haycocks, fences, and bridges; but, Lord, we want it to come down drizzle-drozzle, drizzle-drozzle for about a week. Amen."

"Amen, Amen," said Henry, bowing his head above his folded hands.

FLOWER ARRANGEMENT CLASSES

A series of flower arrangement lectures, sponsored by the San Diego Floral Association, with Mrs. J. R. Kirkpatrick as instructor, will begin on August 9, and continue weekly on Tuesday mornings in the Floral Building, Balboa Park. If there is enough interest, an evening group may be added. For further information call the chairman, Mrs. Roland Hoyt, CYpress 6-2757.

On Sunday afternoon, July 24, under the auspices of the San Diego Floral Association, a Carillon concert was given in Balboa Park in memory of

ALICE MARIE JONES

A native of Arizona, she came to San Diego as a child. She was an enthusiastic member of the San Diego Floral Association from 1907 to 1930 and an indefatigable worker in all its projects. She passed away on July 15. The memorial concert was sponsored by her sisters, Ada M. and Jessie Jones.

Compost

JANET RICHARDS

First prize in the garden club display at the San Diego County Fair flower show which closed July 5th, was won by the San Diego Floral Association. The Delcadia Garden Club, Encinitas, won second prize. In the amateur garden club display prizes were awarded first to the East Mission Bay Garden Club; second, the Pacific Beach Garden Club; and third, the Escondido Garden Club.

Other winners at the flower show at Del Mar included:

Sam Barbic, San Diego: 1st, rose display—cut flowers; *Mrs. Ethel B. Batson,* San Diego: 3rd, roses, flame; 1st, apricot gladiolus; 2nd, coral gladiolus; 2nd, mauve, purple gladiolus; 3rd, light pink gladiolus; 3rd, dark red gladiolus; 1st, light red gladiolus; 2nd, dahlias in basket; *Howard H. Batson,* San Diego: all gladiolus: 2nd, apricot; 3rd, coral; 1st, mauve, purple; 1st, dark pink; 2nd, light pink; 1st, dark red; 2nd, light red; 1st, salmon; 3rd, cream or blush white; 3rd, yellow; *Mrs. Clarence W. Benson,* San Diego; 3rd, roses, apricot; 1st, roses, apricot; 1st, roses, bi-colored; 1st, roses, orange or salmon; 2nd & 3rd, roses, dark pink; 1st, roses, light pink; 1st & 3rd, roses, dark red; 1st roses, light red; 1st & 2nd, roses, dark yellow; 2nd, roses, light yellow; 2nd, roses, Peace, yellow blend; 1st, arrangement, all white flowers; 1st, arrangement, dahlias; 1st, potted plants, hydrangea; 2nd, potted plants, pelargonium; 2nd, gladioli in basket; 1st, arrangement with lillies; 2nd, flower arrangement, marigolds; 2nd, dark pink gladiolus; 2nd, cream or blush white gladiolus; 1st, white gladiolus; 2nd, yellow gladiolus; 1st, blue gladiolus; 1st, flower arrangement featuring pink; 3rd, flowers featuring blue; 2nd, cup and saucer container; 3rd, dahlias in vase; 3rd, roses in basket; 2nd, unusual corsage; *Jan Bertoncini,* Solana Beach: 1st, potted plant; *Ruth Bishop,* San Diego: 2nd, arrangement using dried materials; 1st and 3rd, potted plant arrangements; 3rd, suggesting a holiday; 3rd, dahlias in basket; 2nd, gaillardias; 2nd, pitcher container; 1st, patriotic arrangement; 1st, hospital arrangement for teen-age boy; 3rd, dahlias in bowl; *Chris Breuninger,* San Diego: 2nd, dahlia display, $175; *Mrs. William Breyer,* San Diego: 1st, shasta daisies; *Broadway Florists,* San Diego: 1st, carnation display, $200; 1st, cut flowers by florists, $300; 1st, strelitzia display, $150; 2nd, orchid display by florist, $175; 2nd, rose display, cut flowers, $175; 2nd rose corsage; 1st, rose corsage; 1st, basket or bowl cut flowers, $25; 2nd, basket or bowl cut flowers; 1st, orchid corsage, professional division; 2nd, wedding corsage; 3rd, basket of cut flowers; 3rd, informal corsage.

W. A. Buerger, San Diego: 1st, tuberous begonis display, $200; *Blair Burkhart,* San Diego: 4th, landscape garden, $200; 1st, patio garden, $150; 2nd, formal garden, $200; *California Garden Club,* La Mesa: 3rd, basket or bowl of cut flowers; *Emily K. Carringer,* San Diego: 1st, featuring wood and dry straw flowers; 1st, featuring dried materials; 1st, pair of containers; 1st, begonias; 3rd, bottle container; 1st, dramatizing one flower; *Dorothy Chess,* San Diego: 1st, hanging basket, amateur; 1st, 2nd, potted plants, amateur; *Mrs. Charles Christensen,* San Diego: 3rd, flower arrangement, marigold; 3rd, snapdragons; 2nd, salmon gladiolus.

Mary A. Christian, San Diego: 2nd, suggesting land of Make Believe; 3rd, begonias; 2nd, rose corsage; 2nd, bottle container; 2nd, roses in vase; 2nd, informal corsage; *Community Garden Club,* San Diego: 3rd, patio garden display; 3rd, hospital arrangement for a child; 3rd, asters; 3rd, unusual corsage; 2nd, dahlias in flat tray or dish; 2nd, arrangement with lilies; 1st & 2nd, formal corsages, amateurs; 3rd, basket container; 2nd, gladioli in bowl; 2nd, wedding corsage; 1st, wedding corsage; 3rd, wedding corsage; 3rd, gladioli in flat tray or dish; 2nd, flowers featuring red, amateur; 2nd, patriotic arrangement; 3rd, suggesting a book or title; 1st, sweet peas; *Comstock Dahlia Gardens,* San Diego: 1st, dahlia display by commercial grower; 1st, dahlia display, open division; *Comstock Flower Farm,* Encinitas: 3rd, dahlia display by commercial grower; 2nd, dahlia display; *Edythe L. Cottrell,* San Diego: 2nd, hospital arrangement for a child; 2nd, asters; 1st, begonias; 3rd, wandering jew; 2nd, miniature garden in glass; 1st, coleus; 2nd, fern; 1st, gloxinias; 1st, hoya carnosa; 3rd, hydrangea; 2nd, St. Paulias; 2nd, violet; 2nd, brides bouquet; 1st, hospital arrangement for teen-age girl; 1st, suggesting a holiday; 3rd, hospital arrangement for a man; 1st, cup and saucer container; 3rd, informal corsage; 3rd, flowers featuring red; 1st, suggesting a book title; 2nd, stocks; 1st, zinnias; *Genevieve Crabtree,* Del Mar: 1st, hanging basket, amateur, maidenhair fern; 2nd, hanging basket, amateur, antler fern.

Anne Crawford, San Diego: 3rd, cornflowers; *Leslie M. Crawford,* San Diego: 2nd, asparagus fern; 2nd, fuchsia; 1st, wandering jew; 1st, succulent; 3rd, fuchsia; *Clara Dillon,* Encinitas: 3rd, lobelia, potted; *Ida Faulkner,* Encinitas: 3rd, fibrous begonia, potted; *Edwin Frazee,* San Diego: 2nd, gladiolus display, $125; 2nd, cut flowers by commercial grower, $175; 1st, gladiolus, individual bouquet; *Raymond and Sadie B. Fritz,* San Diego: 2nd, patio garden display, $125; 1st, rock garden, $150; *Mattie Guynn,* Vista: 1st, featuring rocks and desert material; 2nd, dried material in natural container; 3rd, using driftwood; 3rd, decorated hat; *Gary Hall,* Oceanside: 3rd, all white flowers; 1st, in metal container; 2nd, in pair of containers; 1st, unusual container; 1st, asters; 2nd, batchelors buttons; 2nd, cannas; 2nd, dahlias; 1st, gladioli; 2nd, roses; 1st, flowers, fruit and vegetables in Mexican container; 1st, suggesting a foreign country; 1st, dahlias in flat tray or dish; 1st, flower arrangement, marigolds; 3rd, flower arrangement, nasturtiums; 1st, flower arrangement, pansies; 1st, flower arrangement, roses in bowl; 2nd, flower arrangement featuring pink; 1st, basket container flower arrangements; 1st, bottle container flower arrangements; 2nd, arrangements suggesting a holiday; 1st, carnation arrangement; 1st, chrysanthemum arrangement; 1st, dahlias in basket; 1st, gladioli in bowl; 3rd, roses in vase; 1st, teapot container; 1st, suggesting song title; 1st, dahlias in vase; 2nd, gladioli in flat tray or dish; 1st, penstemon; 1st, roses in basket; 3rd, shasta daisies; 2nd, snapdragons; 1st, flowers featuring red; 3rd, sea shell container; 2nd, suggesting a book title; 1st, suggesting a holiday (exhibitor 14 years of age or under); 2nd, dahlias in bowl; 1st, gladioli in vase; 1st, stocks; 2nd, zinnias; *Adeline V. Herder,* Encinitas: 3rd, African violets.

Sharon R. Hines, Escondido: 1st, brides bouquet; 2nd, comic arrangement; 1st, hospital arrangement for a man; 2nd, teapot containers; *Horner's Nursery,* National City: 1st, pelargonium and geranium display, $150; *Ethel L. Hoyt,* San Diego: 1st, flowers featuring blue; 1st, informal corsage; *Mrs. Delbert*

(Continued from Page 8)

suitable mulching materials, and are being used by the Park Department in the development of the planting in the Mission Bay Project. I suppose that you might even shave the fur off your wife's old mink stole, and use it to advantage as a mulch, if you dared. Whatever you may elect to use, use it generously, and during the first month or so following the application, feed your plants some soluble plant food for the greatest benefit. You will be glad you did.

☆

Frank Quintana, chemist for Southern Comfort Corp., and past-president of the Eva Kenworthy Gray Society, La Jolla.

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Hughes, San Diego: 1st, antique containers; *Larry Hunter,* Lemon Grove: 2nd, landscape garden, $350; *Mrs. John Huszka,* San Diego: 3rd, gladioli; *Jacoby's Nursery,* El Cajon: 1st, fuchsia display, $150; 3rd, hanging basket, $100; 2nd, hydrangea display, $125; *Mrs. E. R. Jennings,* San Diego: 1st, peace pipe; 1st, fern; 3rd, Hart's tongue; 2nd & 3rd, geranium; *Fern Karynaske,* San Diego: 3rd, wood and dry flowers; 3rd, poppies; *Kenard's Florist,* San Diego: 2nd, carnation display, $125; 2nd, cut oflwers by florist, $175; 3rd, Florist Association Telegraph Delivery Service, $150; 1st, gladiolus display, $200; 3rd, rose corsage; 2nd, orchid corsage; professional division; 1st, wedding corsage; 1st, basket of cut flowers; 1st, 2nd & 3rd, unusual corsage, professional division; basket or bowl of cut flowers. 1st & 2nd; *Alena R. Kessler,* San Diego: 3rd, coleus; *James A. Kirk,* San Diego: all roses: 2nd, apricot; 1st, cream; 1st, flame; 3rd, orange or salmon; 1st, dark pink; 2nd, light red; 3rd, light yellow; 3rd, yellow; 3rd, bi-colored; 2nd, cream; 2nd, flame; 2nd, orange or salmon; 2nd, light pink; 2nd, dark red; 3rd, light red; 1st, light yellow; 1st, medium red; *Irene R. Kolb,* Bonsall: 1st, miniature garden; 3rd, succulent hanging basket; 3rd, formal corsages; *Theodosia M. Kolb,* Bonsall: 3rd, miniature garden; 1st, comic arrangement; 3rd, roses in bowl; *Mrs. Averill Lagant,* San Diego: 3rd, apricot gladiolus; 1st, coral gladiolus; 1st, light pink gladiolus; 3rd, salmon gladiolus; 1st, cream blush white gladiolus; 2nd, white gladiolus; 1st, yellow gladiolus; *Lee Langford,* Vista: 1st, anthurium display, $150; 3rd, lath house display, $75; 1st, orchid display by grower, $250; 1st, colored cattleya in flower; 2nd, cypripedium in flower; 1st, variegated cattleya in flower; 1st, yellow cattleya in flower; 1st in following: orchid cut flowers, colored cattleya, variegated cattleya, white cattleya, yellow cattleya, and cypripedium; *A. L. Lamp,* San Diego: 1st, cut flowers by commercial grower, $300; *Lessar Nursery,* Encinitas: 1st, floriculture exhibit, $150; *Leucadia Nursery,* Encinitas: 1st, potted plant display, $150; 1st, fern display, $150; 2nd, cactus garden, $100; *Mrs. W. G. Littlefield,* San Diego: 2nd, decorated hat; 3rd, tea-pot containers; *J. C. Luippold,* Encinitas: 3rd, rocks and desert materials; 3rd, rose corsage; 2nd, miniature garden; 1st, potted ivy geranium; 3rd, dramatizing one flower; 3rd, coreopsis; 1st, potted St. Paulias; 3rd, potted violets; 2nd, kitchen arrangement; 3rd, dahlias in flat tray or dish; 2nd, flower arrangement, nasturtiums; 2nd, flower arrangement, pansies; 3rd, suggesting song titles; 1st, pitcher container; 2nd, sweet peas; 1st, mixed flowers; *Max and Dee Matousek,* San Diego: 2nd, potted plant display; *Jeannette McClelland,* Escondido: 2nd, rocks and desert material display.

Montalvo Greenhouse, San Diego: 1st, begonia display, $200; 2nd, tuberous begonia display, $150; 3rd, hydrangea display, $100; 2nd, landscape tropical, $200; 1st, lath house display, $150; *Agnes Morgans* 2nd, featuring wood and dry straw flowers; 3rd, in metal container; 3rd, in unusual container; 2nd, flowers featuring yellow; 3rd, bride's bouquet; 3rd, pansies; 3rd, hospital arrangement for mothers; 2nd, gladioli in vase; 3rd, roses in flat tray or dish; *Myrtle Morris,* San Diego: 3rd, tuberous begonia; *Mrs. Jacob D. Mullis,* San Diego: 2nd, roses bicolored; 3rd, roses, dark yellow; 1st, potted plants, amateur, cactus; 2nd, potted plant, amateur, cactus; 1st, potted plant, amateur, pelargonium; *Jean Nance,* San Diego: 1st, dried material in natural container; 2nd, using driftwood; 3rd, pair of containers; 2nd, gladioli; 3rd, miniature garden in glass container; 3rd, flowers, fruit and vegetables in Mexican container; 3rd,

(Continued from Page 6)

ner of the patio stands a tree-fern *(Alsophila australis)* originally from subtropical Australia. It needs a rich humus soil with an acid reaction and plenty of water. Like all ferns, it needs shade, however, mine tolerates some sun during the summer months. Frequent spraying with water during the hot weather and especially when we have Santa Ana winds helps to compensate for our lack of the humidity of its native environment. The orange tree, Bird of Paradise, Dracaena and Jacaranda receive the same loam soil and fertilizers as does the lawn, including an annual dressing of steer manure and frequent feedings of ammonia sulphate, a treatment on which they all seem to thrive.

From eastern Asia come the camellias, rhododendrons and some of the azaleas. My camellias are planted in deep humus soil and are fertilized with cottonseed meal in April or as soon as the new growth starts. Soil sulphur and peat moss are used to maintain an acid medium. During hot weather they are kept well watered. The bed in which they are planted is very deep with a gravel bottom to assure good drainage. Like the tree-fern the leaves are kept sprinkled with water during our Santa Anas.

The rhododendrons and azaleas come from the cool temperate regions of both Eastern Asia and our own North America. The native American azaleas are deciduous while those from Asia are mostly evergreen. All require very acid soil. Hence they do better in tubs or pots where we, as gardeners, can better control their soil and moisture and can move them into shady corners or under lath, to protect them from very hot weather. The fuchsias in my patio are mainly hybrids, but their ancestors came from Mexico, Central and South America. However, they thrive well in our climate, where they need the same acid humus as do the camellias but require more shade and frequent sprinklings of water.

For the sake of brevity I have limited my illustrative patio notes, with the exception of the Strelitizia, to trees and shrubs. Of course, the same geographical approach is applicable and useful to all the herbaceous plants which provide us with much of our color and most of our work.

We are indebted to the plant hunters of many lands for the originals of most of our garden flowers. Nurserymen, with great skill and patience, have developed them into the lovely blooms of today. Even we home gardeners can take some of the credit for adapting so many of them to our delightful, yet semi-arid, climate. The story of discovery and development associated with practically all the plant life in our gardens is not only interesting, but can greatly aid us in providing our plants with conditions comparable to those of their natural habitats, thus giving ourselves the best possible gardens. ☆

Alice E. Inch received her Ph.D. in Botany from the University of Chicago. The subect of her thesis was an "Ecological Study in Utah." She is a member of the Board of Directors of the San Diego Floral Association.

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kitchen arrangement; 1st, gladiolus in basket; 3rd, lilies in arrangement; 2nd, basket container; 2nd, hospital arrangement for man; 1st, gaillardias; 1st, roses in vase; 2nd, flowers featuring blue; 3rd, antique container; 2nd, suggesting song title; 2nd, roses in basket; 3rd, pitcher container; 1st, sea shell container; 1st, roses in flat tray or dish; *Gladys Newell,* San Diego: 3rd, potted plant, succulent; 1st, coreopsis; *Mrs. Falck Nielsen,* San Diego: 1st, hospital arrangement for children; *Mrs. Walter Oliver,* San Diego: 2nd, penstemons; *Mrs. G. M. Osborne,* San Diego: 2nd, roses in bowl; 1st, hospital arrangement for mothers; 1st, dahlias in bowl; *Mrs. W. F. Owens,* San Diego: 3rd, roses, light pink; 1st, roses, white.

Pacific Beach Woman's Club, San Diego: 1st, old fashioned flower garden, $100; 1st, arrangements using batchelor's buttons; 3rd, dahlias; 2nd, hanging baskets display; 3rd, begonias; 3rd, fern; 2nd, succulent; 1st, kitchen arrangement; 2nd, hospital arrangement for teen-age girl; 2nd, dramatizing one flower; 2nd, carnations; 2nd, dahlias in vase; 1st, snapdragons; 3rd, gladioli in vase; 2nd, mixed flowers; *Mrs. Ivan Pocklington,* La Mesa: 2nd, unusual container; 3rd, cactus; 3rd, comic arrangement; *Point Loma Florists,* San Diego: 3rd, carnation display; 3rd, cut flowers by florists; 3rd, gladiolus display; 2nd, strelitzia display; *Point Loma Nursery,* San Diego: 1st, rose garden display, $250; 2nd, nursery display, $250; *Mrs. E. E. Putnam,* San Diego: 1st, geranium; *Mrs. E. M. D. Ramsey,* Carlsbad: 2nd, hanging basket, sedum; 2nd, potted plant, fuchsia "Don Peralto"; *Mary E. Ramsay,* Carlsbad: 1st, miniature garden in glass container; *Mrs. Albert Radke,* San Diego: 2nd, fibrous begonia; 2nd, tuberous begonia; 1st, tuberous begonia; 3rd, cannas arrangement; *Rainford Flower Shop,* San Diego: 3rd, basket or bowl of cut flowers; 3rd, orchid corsage, professional division; 2nd, basket cut flowers; 3rd, wedding corsage; 1st & 2nd, informal corsage.

Fryda Rees, Vista: 1st, arrangement using decorated hat; 3rd, cup and saucer container; *Gwendolyn Rex,* Encinitas: 2nd, ivy; 2nd, succulent; 3rd, flowers featuring yellow; *Kay Gennifer Rex,* Encinitas: 1st, suggesting land of make believe; 2nd, suggesting foreign country; 2nd, sea shell container; *Romanie Rex,* Encinitas: 1st, flower arrangement, nasturtium; 2nd, suggesting a holiday by exhibitor 14 years of age or younger; *Mary Rowan,* San Diego: 1st, succulent; *S. D. Chapter Association of Nurserymens* 3rd, begonia display, $125; 1st, hydrangea display, $150; 1st, nursery display, $300; *S. D. Chapter of California Landscape Contractors Assns* 3rd, formal garden, $150; *S. D. County Flower Growers Assns* 2nd, florist and growers association display, $175; *S. D. Fuchsia Clubs* 1st, hanging baskets display, $150; *Mrs. Joe Sandoval,* Encinitas: 1st, fibrous begonias; *Mrs. R. E. Sankey,* Del Mar; 3rd, ivy geranium; 3rd, pelargonium; 1st, violet; 2nd, flower arrangement, fruit and vegetables in Mexican container; 3rd, arrangements featuring pink; 2nd, coreopsis; 3rd, gaillardias arrangement; 2nd, shasta daisies; 3rd, mixed flowers; *Tom Schnorf,* San Diego: 3rd, hospital arrangement for teen-age girl; 3rd, gladioli in basket; carnations; 2nd, hospital arrangement for mother; 1st, gladioli in flat tray or dish; *Mrs. Ben Scott,* San Diego: 2nd, begonia; *So. Calif. Floral Association,* San Diego: 1st, florists and growers association display, $300; *Beverly H. Spilmer,* San Diego: 2nd, coleus; *Mrs. R. Starkweather,* San Diego: 3rd, white gladiolus; *Mr. & Mrs. Stephenson,* Carlsbad: 2nd, orchid plants; 1st, orchid plants; 2nd, orchid cut flowers; 2nd, orchid cut flowers; 2nd, orchid cut flowers; 1st, orchid plants; *Tropi-Flora Nursery,* Encinitas: 2nd, lath house display, $100.

Mrs. R. C. Van Sickle, San Diego: 2nd, antique container; 3rd, penstemons; 1st, unusual corsage; *Walter Anderson Nursery,* San Diego: 3rd, landscape tropical, $175; 3rd, landscape garden, $250; 3rd, nursery display, $175; 2nd, begonia display, $150; *Orville Williams,* San Diego: 3rd, cut flowers by commercial growers, $150; *Mrs. Russell Williams,* San Diego: 3rd, mauve, purple gladiolus; 1st, orange gladiolus; 2nd, dark red gladiolus; *Williams & Macpherson;* Encinitas: 1st, landscape garden, $400; 1st, landscape tropical, $240; *W. L. Wimber,* San Diego: Cymbidium orchids, 1st, chartreuse; 2nd, chartreuse; 1st & 2nd, green; *Dorothy E. Wylie,* San Diego: 3rd, dried material in natural container; 3rd, featuring dried material; 1st, using drift wood; 2nd, potted plants, striped grass; 1st, hanging basket, asparagus fern; 2nd, wandering jew.

* * *

We recently visited the gardens of two tuberous begonia hybridizers in Capitola: *Antonelli* and *Vetterle & Reinelt.* The size and quantity of their bloom is incredible. It's a wonderful experience to be engulfed in begonias. At *Vetterle & Reinelt's* we were aware that a young man was whistling very quietly as he picked off old blooms and leaves from the begonias. It was the only sound in the large hot house and over and over we heard the melody the words of which we knew to be "Roses round the door."

At the Point Lobos Reserve State Park, near Carmel, the wildflowers and Monterey Cypress were in festival. A truly fantastic display. Color, song, and dance provided by nature. We exclaimed its wonder to the ranger who stretched tall like an econ. professor and lectured: "We have this because there were men of vision, like John Muir, who worked to save this. If it is of value to you today, think that we too, must develop men of vision."

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Native Herbs for Seasoning

Ethel Bailey Higgins

In these days we are becoming more conscious of the great pleasure which we may derive from the use of various flavors which have been used commonly in other countries and by chefs in this country. We have become herb-conscious.

We are able to get little from abroad. True, there are a few available sources like *The House of Herbs* and *Spice Islands* which firms have risen to the occasion by importing or raising many of the desirable herbs.

The California Bay, *Umbellularia californica,* I believe when dried, cannot be distinguished from the imported Italian Bay. I understand that it is being marketed. In my yard is a small tree capable of supplying all my acquaintances. When I need a leaf for a pot roast or a stew, I pick a fresh leaf and have no regrets that it is not imported.

The dried leaves of *Salvia officinalis* L., the sage with which we season our Thanksgiving turkey dressing, is scarcely to be distinguished from those of our native Black Sage, *Salvia mellifera,* which is one of our most common species scattered all over our nearby hills. If a little more delicate flavor is desired, try the fragrant *Salvia clevelandii.* It is a pleasure to handle for it has an unforgettable fragrance.

Another of the Labiates (Mint Family), *Satureja chandleri,* a little known plant called San Miguel Savory from the locality in which it is found, is a most delicately flavored mint. I have used it for iced tea, freezing it in ice cubes. It has a delightful flavor and makes a pretty decoration for the glass, cool and fresh looking. It has dainty white flowers which do not freeze successfully. I think results might be better if used in a deep freeze. The time element in the ordinary freezing compartment of the refrigerator causes the white flowers to turn brown. If the blossoms could be frozen successfully, the result would be most charming.

The little Button sage, Chia, has tiny seeds which the Indians parched before using. I believe that these seeds would prove a very pleasing substitute for the poppy seed used to top rolls.

Taragon we do not have in the wild here: it is *Artemisia dracunculoides.* But we have other species of *Artemisia* with a pleasant, bitter, tangy flavor that might prove as desirable. *Artemisia douglasii,* I have tried sparingly as a flavor for meat dishes. It might well be made the subject for experimentation. I have also used it as an accent in a sandwich of cream cheese. It is a handsome plant to have in the garden, with its dark green leaves backed with silver.

Experiments in flavor from nearby sources of native plants might prove both exciting and profitable.

☆

Ethel Bailey Higgins is Curator of Botany at the Museum of Natural History, Balboa Park, San Diego.

New Books

Ada McLouth

DAYLILIES AND HOW TO GROW THEM, by Ben Arthur Davis. Atlanta, Ga., Tupper and Love, 1954. $4.00.

This is another in the lengthening list of books on garden specialties that have been coming out in recent years. There is a gossipy feeling in the treatment of this garden subject. The author claims for his favorite, unusual opportunities in hybridizing. Every phase of the culture of Hemerocallis is treated.

There are separate chapters by region, each by a different author. Dr. Homer T. Blackhurst writes about the use of daylilies in the Southwest. Each regional chapter closes with a list of varieties selected for the area, giving color, height, and season of bloom.

Each year the Hemerocallis Society polls its members on their favorite varieties. The 100 top favorites for 1953 are listed in order of popularity.

This book is lovingly done, with facts about cost, culture, planting schemes, uses as cut flowers. There is a glossary, also a list of dealers.

Thrown in at the end is an amusing bit "California vs. Florida" in which Dr. John V. Watkins of the University of Florida states that the daylily is not as important to California gardens as to Florida gardens. He mentions the late Sydney B. Mitchell's dim view of the plant.

WESTERN FRUIT GARDENING, by Reid M. Brooks and Claron O. Hesse. Berkeley, University of California Press, 1953. $4.50.

Written for the layman, this book, with its attractive make-up and line drawings, gives lucid advice about fruit culture in our gardens.

Part I gives basic information about planning the fruit garden, and the various phases of care of trees, vines, and bushes that produce edible fruit and grow in Western gardens.

Part II treats individually all commonly-grown and some not-so-commonly-grown fruits. Instructions as to culture and suggestions as to varieties are included. Carissa is included, also the Macadamia nut. Probably the information could not be found in any one volume, certainly not in one so agreeable to use.

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Garden Chores

ADA PERRY

July 18 and it's a beautifully muggy evening. The sky's purple in the east and I finish purchasing some very loveable items at the nursery where I work: 10 inch pots and a wooden tub, a few dusty millers and Crusader petunias with Royal Carpet alyssum and yellow marigolds to border them. The wind blows in the full grown eucalyptus as I duck down into the storage grounds by the river to pick up the tub. Mrs. Cavenee, the nursery owner, has some fine tree people in this nursery. I roam around in the storage grounds, while the little Chev runs its motor, and pick a passiflora for my hair, a Beverly Hills apple that is kind of a spare, and a sprig of a little neglected rose, The Fairy.

That Beverly Hills is as good as anybody's apple, and it's all ours—Southern California. The skin's a lot more tender than some of those bragging northern apples and the flavor is just prime. The flesh is tender, too, and it's only the last part of July. The flavor is lovely! You can just ditch all northern summer apples as far as I'm concerned. Wish anybody who wants an apple tree in San Diego would take hope and start working on a place to plant a Beverly Hills or Pettingill or Valmore in January. A good way to do it is to fork in steer and use that organic liquid containing the plant enzymes to get the soil alive and loamy, ready for the bare root tree after the first of the year.

"After the first of the year" in San Diego is like after the first bluebird in places where there are such things as spring thaws. A spring thaw! Truly a strange thing to contemplate. Well, anyway, here in San Diego we go all out planting bare skeletons of trees which shed their leaves in winter, and roses which make a passable attempt at going dormant in winter. And if you are the type who wants steer manure in your bare root planting area, we want you to spade it in now, this fall, and let it get mellowed into pablum for the new roots of your selections in bare roots.

To be sure I know I started this article with a summer flashback and then went into a winter flashforward. But all times of the year are connected here and it's good to look at them in a group sometimes. Now's the time to plant sweet peas and bulbs and set out very important bedding plants. Fall bedding plants are the stocks and snaps and pansies and violas. All four of these flowers are so popular that many of us make a very earnest attempt to plant them all year. A few of us can keep them going for a year or so instead of the usual six months. But it still remains a fact that September to January is the best time for planting them out.

News in bedding plants is that the Giant Imperial stock has held the line against the trisomics. A recent development, the trisomic stock has dominated the past two years. But the older Giant Imperial is being planted again and it certainly will be nice to see it again. By "planted again," I mean by bedding plant growers. It's hard to tell which calls the trends, the public or the bedding plant growers. I get to hear both sides and believe you me, each is sadly abused by the other!

The new Tetra snaps are "the only," though. Grandiflorums seem to be forgotten except by the cut flower growers. The public has a cute habit of calling tetra snaps, "double," due to the very ruffled petals.

If you want imported pansies this year, ask for Swiss Rogglis. If you want a lively American strain of the Rogglis, ask for Color Carnival. Steele's Oregon pansies don't seem to be generally offered but no doubt can be found.

A very delightful viola is Scottish Mix. Looks like a collection of hard candy colors. Unusual combinations in the separate colors are dark red and apricot or white and dark red, and white and yellow.

There is a problem with violas in the smaller gardens. In the large, too, come to think of it. It's pretty hard to rotate flowers, due to suitability for certain effects. But if your violas died off last year with "wilt," it was probably a fungous trouble and you should use calendulas or ageratum in that place this fall and have violas somewhere else.

Ladies, there's also news in hoes. If there were one thing that couldn't have a different shape, you'd think that was it. But no. Now there are sickle hoes and disk hoes and all were invented right here in San Diego County. They scuff weeds off the surface of the ground, they sever them beneath the ground, they cultivate the soil like one o'clock. And they can do all this in half an hour instead of half a day. I suggest one for your personal satisfaction and you can charge the dearly beloved tool rental when he wants it.

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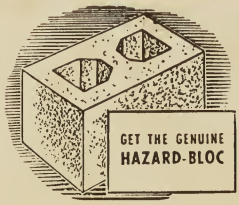

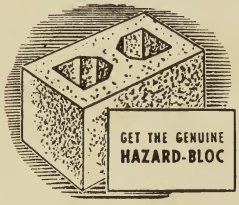

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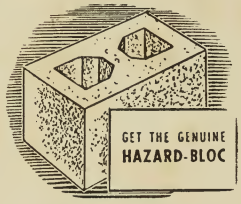

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